EXCISE

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OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Origin

ACTION: Amembassy PARIS 4075

Info

INFO : Amembassy TEL AVIV 692
" BEIRUT 797
" LONDON 4844
" AMMAN (by pouch)
" DAMASCUS (by pouch)
" CAIRO (by pouch)
Amconsul JERUSALEM (by pouch)

JORDAN WATERS

Paris EmbteL 4391 NC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 2/2/95
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You may convey following Dept views to Foreign Office:

1. We appreciate French taking us into their confidence. We are deeply concerned about this situation. This matter clearly one in which effectiveness of efforts by friends of riparians to keep peace will be enhanced if they maintain close consultation.

2. We share [redacted] opinion about lack of usefulness of tripartite approach at this stage. Such joint action could well be counterproductive with parties already under stress from several quarters. Seems to us France, UK and US have identical goal of peaceful solution and our general approaches are similar. We think it best to continue along these parallel lines while maintaining frequent consultation.

3. Eytan's threat of war is one of most explicit we have heard but Israeli public pronouncements and private discussions with us have left

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no doubt there important if not ascendant body of opinion that favors armed action, perhaps at early stage, as remedy for danger Israel feels.

4. We have been in frequent contact with the Lebanese and Israeli governments during recent weeks conveying our concern and counselling restraint. We intend to continue these efforts. Our present reading is not optimistic. Lebanese obviously under strong Arab pressure feel they must show outward signs forward motion while hoping something will turn up to take heat off. Israelis probably less concerned about decline in water quantity and quality Arab project adumbrates than adverse psychological and political effects Arab success this endeavor would bring, especially in context whole range Arab actions set in train against Israel by last year's summits.

5. We are pleased French give place in their approach to Johnston Plan. Although Plan not accepted by Arab riparian governments at political level and not entirely accepted by Israelis it may yet play useful role in peaceful resolution Jordan waters problems.

6. French by virtue their special relationship with Lebanese and Israelis may be in unique position turn both parties away from dangerous channels in which they now seem embarked. We hope they will continue their interest and efforts.

FYI. Would be interested in knowing basis for French opinion Lebanese have right divert for own use but not for another state.

GP-3.

END

Bird